

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
Carol C. Lam***

For Further Information, Contact: Assistant U. S. Attorney Alessandra P. Serano, (619) 557-7084

For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - December 8, 2005

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that Jesus Cruz-Murillo was sentenced today in U.S. District Court in San Diego by the Honorable John A. Houston to serve 120 months in custody, based on Cruz's conviction for importation of 41.12 kilograms of cocaine. Judge Houston also ordered that Garcia serve a 5-year term of supervised release following his release from prison.

On January 6, 2005, Cruz pleaded guilty to importation of cocaine in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 952 and 960. According to court documents, on August 23, 2004, Cruz was the driver of a Mitsubishi that entered the San Ysidro Port of Entry and which contained approximately 41.12 kilograms, or 90.46 pounds, of cocaine concealed within the floor boards of the vehicle.

U.S. Attorney Lam praised the work of the agents of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection for their efforts and resulting in the prosecution and conviction of Cruz.

DEFENDANT

Jesus Cruz-Murillo

SUMMARY OF CHARGE

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 952 and 960 – Importation of a Controlled Substance

Maximum Penalty: Life imprisonment and minimum mandatory of ten years in prison

\$4,000,000.00 fine

Minimum of five years of supervised release

INVESTIGATING AGENCIES

Customs and Border Protection

Immigration and Customs Enforcement